**Revival Package for NPCC**

**138.* SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Package under Government's consideration for revival of National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) After examining all aspects, a proposal containing four options namely (i) Closure (Immediate or in Phases); (ii) Privatisation; (iii) Management Contract for Reforms; and (iv) Revival, has been' framed in the Ministry of Water Resources.

**issuance of Passport**

*139. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

fa) what is the total number of applications pending with Regional Passport Offices in the country as on date, office-wise:

(b) whether it is a fact that the Regional Passport Office at New Delhi alone has the largest pending applications; and

(c) if so, what steps Government nave taken to expedite issuance of passports within one month, as assured earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A detailed *statement* showing the number of passport applications pending with various Regional Passport Offices in the country as on 15th May, 1998, which is the latest date for which such figures are available is laid on the table of the House. *(See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government is constantly en-deavouring to keep the number of such pending applications to the minimum so as to provide an efficient service to the general public. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are computerisation of processing procedures, opening of new Passport Offices and Collection Centres, enhancing validity of Passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by spee'd post wherever practical, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

**Statemen**

| S.No. | Passport Office | Pendency brought forward from 1997 | Pending over a month as on 15.5.1998 | Total Pendency as on 15.5.1998 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Ahmedabad | 19559 | 7368 | 22537 |
| 2. | Bangalore | 20399 | 8878 | 17378 |
| 3. | Bareilly | 14108 | 12172 | 16983 |
| 4. | Bhopal | 3679 | 1668 | 4321 |
| 5. | Bhubaneshwar | 4022 | 3272 | 4285 |
| 6. | Calcutta | 7304 | 1978 | 7709 |
| 7. | Chandigarh | 13362 | 9515 | 19293 |
| 8. | Chennai | 22109 | 17598 | 28673 |
| 9. | Cochin | 8941 | 1472 | 10617 |
| 10. | Delta | 33753 | 26483 | 32954 |
| 11. | Ghaziabad | | 3123 | 4322 |
| 12. | Goa | 2200 | 2282 | 2964 |
| 13. | Guwahati | 2511 | 1639 | 2747 |
| 14. | Hyderabad | 31383 | 4^77 | 21037 , |